

Pampered Women **and Pious Hypocrites** **Amos 4:1-5**

God is not pleased with corrupt homes and contaminated congregations

I. PAMPERED WOMEN (1-3)

A. THEIR CONDITION (1)

“Perhaps Amos had been asked to address the Mt. Gerizim Garden Club! As he looked at these fat, well-to-do women, these sleek, well-fed creatures, they reminded him of a herd of fat cows from Bashan, and he told them so!”

[Page Kelly, “Amos,” (Baker, 1966) p. 55]

1. Overindulgent - Cows of Bashan
2. Thoughtless - Habitually oppressing the poor and crushing the needy
3. Demanding - Who say to their “husbands” > “Oh Daaarling ...!”
4. Extravagant - Bring wine, let’s party!

B. THEIR CONDEMNATION (2-3)

1. The Calamity - “Behold the days shall come upon you” > with sudden unexpectedness
 - a. Captivity – Fish or nose hooks (cf. II Kings 19:38)
 - b. Destruction – The city walls broken down right behind each house (3)
 - c. Humiliation – Cast to Harmon
 - d. Hardship – The soft living of these dainty women will come to an abrupt halt!
2. The Covenant - “The Lord God has sworn by His holiness” (2a)
 - a. God speaking under oath is very serious business
 - b. By His holiness: His perfect and holy nature makes clear His demands

C. THE CORRUPTION (Analysis)

1. Luxury-laden, cruel and careless women threaten a nation’s well-being
2. Role-reversed marriages
3. Becoming what you thought you would never be and surprised at what you have become!

II. PIOUS HYPOCRITES (4-5)

A. THE HYPOCRISY (4a)

1. The Shrines: Bethel and Gilgal
2. The Sham: Coming to a holy place to sin!
3. The Sins: Not just committing one sin but many
4. The Sense: Worship combined with corruption
5. The Shame: Much ritual with little reality

Over please >

B. THE PIETY (4b-5)

1. The Details
 - a. Daily sacrifice
 - b. Tithes paid every three days (or years)
 - c. Meticulous Thanksgiving offerings (cf. Lev.7:12-13)
 - d. Generous Freewill offerings
2. “Exaggerated scrupulosity!” [Ray Beely, “Amos,” (Banner of Truth, 1970) p. 57]

C. THEIR PLEASURE (5b) > “This you love”

1. “This just makes me feel good” > But what about being good or being godly?
2. It may have made them feel good, but it did not please God!

D. SOME IMPLICATIONS (Analysis)

1. Quit the Worship!
 - They should quit the worship if they were not going to get right – See Malachi 1:10
2. Quit the Charade!
 - Ritual ≠ Righteousness

III. **CONSIDER** (Application)

A. THE CORRUPTION FROM WITHIN

1. Degraded Women: Corruption in the home
 - a. Demeaning others
 - b. Demanding luxury
 - c. Defiantly independent
2. Defiled Worship: Corruption in the congregation
 - a. Ritualism: Form without fervor
 - b. Passivity: Unaddressed sin
 - c. Entertainment: Focused on what I love

B. SOME CONCLUSIONS ABOUT GOD

1. He vindicates His holiness (2)
2. He senses insincerity (4)

CONCLUSION

Hear this!(1a) God desires humble and holy worship! - See Micah 6:6-8

ONLY A FOOL THINKS THEY CAN FOOL WITH GOD!